



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES SUPERVISOR
RIDLEY-THOMAS' REQUEST TO RATIFY AGREEMENT
WITH UC REGENTS TO OPEN NEW MLK HOSPITAL**

LOS ANGELES – Acting on a motion by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, the Board of Supervisors today unanimously approved the terms of a Coordination Agreement with the University of California for opening of the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital, under a private, non-profit entity.

The vote came one year to the day that the Supervisor Ridley-Thomas became the first new Board member in 14 years and declared that opening the new, 120-bed hospital would be his top priority.

The Board's vote officially begins the process to restore in-patient hospital services on the site of the old MLK Hospital, which was closed two years ago. County officials say today's action will make up for lost time and allow the project to meet its December 2012 deadline.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas praised his Board colleagues, UC Regents and his staff members who spearheaded the effort to open the new hospital, which will be governed by an independent board whose members will be appointed by the UC and Supervisors.

"The Board's attentiveness to this issue to reinforce the County's safety net was critically important and appropriate," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, the first African American man ever elected to the board.

On November 19, the Regents approved an agreement to partner with the County of Los Angeles in establishing the new hospital. The agreement requires several key implementation steps to establish the new hospital and to secure legislative, regulatory, and other programmatic support to execute, fund and implement the effort.

Last week, the Board directed the County's Chief Executive Officer to report back next in 30 days on recommendations for implementation of the agreement, including the process for selection of the new hospital's board members.

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